CVPIDS MESSENGER.

OR,

A truſty Friend ſtored with ſundry ſorts of ſerious, witty, pleaſant, amorous, and delightfull Letters.

What Cupid *bluſhes to diſcover, Thus to write he learnes the Lover.*

Newly Written.

LONDON,
Printed by MILES FLESHER.

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CVPIDS MESSENGER,

DELIVERING SVNDRY excellent Letters.

A letter inviting his friend to write to him.

THough the want of your sweet societie (my worthy friend) doe occasion in me all griefe, yet it lies in you euen by the often mission of your desired Letters, to mitigate that sorrow: And since the distance of place doth deny vs our accustomed conference and orall communication, let the passage and entercourse of our Letters supply that defect. Now our tongues cannot be heard, let vs be frequent in our writing, and let not the change of places alter our minds. Therefore that you may not iudge me neglectfull of our forepassed amity, or obliuious of our old friendship, I haue tooke boldnesse to visit you with this Letter, and desire you to be no niggard in this kinde of friendly remembrance. I wish to you all prosperous fortunes as to my selfe, and continue my loue to you with all sincerity. But lest the prolixitie of my Letter grow to the length of an Oration, I set bounds to my writting, and remaine,

London,
May the 20. 1638.

Yours in boundlesse affection.

G.R.

The answer.

A letter excusatorie for not writing.

I Am afraid (iudicious and kinde sir) that it is with mée as it is with that vnfortunate Pylot who falls into the Gulfe of Scylla, while he endeauours to auoid the danger of Charybdis.

Incidit in Scyllam cupiens vitare Charybdim.

I confesse I haue receiued Letters from you, and seeking by not answering all this while to conceale the rudenesse of my vnpolished pen from the deepe discerning eye of your iudgement, I doubt whether I haue not made shipwrack of your good opinion, who haply imputes my silence vnto my neglect of your loue, or to my oblition of your passed kindnesses: But I beseech you (kindest sir) to haue thus much confidence in my disposition, that no confused chaos of cogitations, no fulnes of imploiment, shall banish your remembrance out of my thoughts: though I be neuer so busie, I make answer to those I little regard, I dare scarce write to you (I am possessed with such a due reuerence of your worthinesse) when I am most at leisure. Yet finding in my selfe how farre greater a crime it is to neglect dutie, than to lay open my imperfection to a well wishing friend I haue chosen the latter to make tender of the former: wishing that as you equallize graue Nestor in wisedome, so you might parallel him in the longaeuitie of a happy life, I humblie surcease.

At your command,

New castle,
Iune 2. 1638.

E.K.

A Letter to a friend upon the death of his wife.

THe acquaintance I had with your vertuous wife (honest friend) makes me seele the sense of her losse, for he that can be insensible of the losse of a good woman, is an alien to Nature, and a rebell to all morall Vertues. I may truly say she was praise-worthy for her many good parts, but they were but good prouisions for the world to come.

Giue me leaue to aske you why you mourne, I meane not why you mourne outwardly, which is an old custome and a matter of formality, but why you doe mourne inwardly, which is true sorrow: you will say (I say) for the losse of a companion. Indeed you doe well, for as a man is solitary before God gaue him one, so should he be after God takes her away: but there is a meam in all things. To be hard hearted is beast-like, to be tender is effeminate, to be sensible is manly. As for you, you cannot offer a more acceptable sacrifice to the dead, then by turning the love you bear her, into care of her children, to which I know you by nature so well inclined, that I need not to instruct, but onely remember you: but since wise men in sudden accidents and in cases concerning themselues are sometimes to seeke, I am bold to aduise you now, though henceforth I would be glad to be aduised by you: resting,

Your seruant,

Arthingworth,
July 7. 1638.

I.M.

A comfortable letter upon the losse of a Husband.

Madam,

THough none knowes the value of your losse, nor feeles the want so deeply as your selfe, yet I may take upon mee more feeling than another man, being for the love I beare you more sensible of your misfortune and affliction: I my selfe have contributed many teares, and I confesse there is great allowance of griefe for good wives for the fatall departure of worthy husbands, but you were better forget the dead than the living, (your daughters I meane) to whom (I am opinionated) you would not wish so sad an increase as your death would bring them, which, by this your course of macerating sorrow is too much hastened. O let not your vertue of patience die before you, but so magnanimously behave your selfe in your troubles, that your acquaintance may finde more cause to commend you, than to advise you. Madam I beseech you hold me to be

Your Honours friend.

Arthingworth. W.R.
July 29. 1638.

A Letter of griefe for his friends abſence.

OF ſuch comfortable vſe is the familiarity of a ſweet companion, that thoſe houres of our life ſeeme moſt happy which are paſſed away in the ſocietie of a friend: If we take a journey, his company is in ſtead of a Coach, there's not a thought, not a word, of the tedioufneſſe of the way: If we abide at home, we imagine that the ſcythe of Time too ſpeedily ſweepes away the houres. But on the contrary, néeds muſt his life be melancholick, that hath no friend to ſweeten the ſlow tranſcurſion of Time. I wiſh my owne experience were not too true proofe hereof, for ſince your abſence, ſweeteſt friend, melancholy hath béene my concomitant, and your remembrance my greateſt comfort. And as the Turtle pines away after the loſſe of his mate, ſo ſince your departure, my boſome hath admitted no conſolation. I requeſt you by that intereſt which I haue in your loue, ſince in perſon I cannot, that I may ſée you in a Letter. Silence betwéene abſent friends incurres the cenſure of an inofficious and inciuill diſpoſition. But I know you will vindicate your ſelfe from a ſtaine of ſo abhorrent a nature. I reſt,

Farndon. Aug. 1638.

Yours unremovably,
I.C.

A Letter for the entreaty of good will to a young Gentlewoman.

THe long and conſiderate regard by which in déep contemplation I haue eyed your moſt rare and ſingular vertues, ſoyned with ſo admirable beauty, and much

sing condition, graffed in your person, hath moued me, good mistris E B. among a number whom I know entirely to fauour you, earnestly to loue you, and therewith to offer my selfe vnto you. Now howbeit I may happily seeme in some eyes, the least in worthinesse of a number that dayly frequent you, yet may you vouchsafe in your owne priuate to reckon me with the greatest in willingnesse. Wherein, if a setled and immoueable affection towards you, if feruent and assured loue, grounded vpon the vndecaiable stay and prop of your vertues, if continuall, nay rather interminable vowes, in all perpetuitie addicted vnto your services, if neuer ceasing and tormenting griefe vncertainely caried by a hazardous expectatiõ, closed in the circle of your gracious conceit, whether to bring vnto the eares of my soule a sweet murmur of life, or seuere sentence of a present death, may ought at all preuaile, either to moue, entreat, sue, sollicite, or perswade you, I then am the man, who shrining in my inward thoughts the dignities of so worthy a creature, and prizing in depest waight (though not to the vttermost value) the estimate of so incomparable a beauty, haue resolued liuing to honor you, and dying neuer to serue other but you, from whose delicate lookes expecting no worse acceptance, than may seeme answerable to so diuine an excellency, I remaine,

January 20.
1638.

Your most passionate, loyall
and perpetually
devoted,

R.F.

Her

Her anſwer.

That men haue skill, and are by ſundry commendable parts enabled to ſet forth their meanings there needeth no other teſtimony then your preſent writing, your eloquence is far beyond the reach of my poore wit, and the multiplicity of your praiſes fitter for a poeticall goddeſſe, than to the erection of any ſuch deeſſe. For my part I ſhall hold them as the fancies and toyes of men, iſſuing from the weakeſt of their humors, and how far my ſelfe can deſerue, none better than my ſelfe can conceiue. Being one of ſo good ſort, as you are, I could doe no leſſe than write againe vnto you, the rather to ſatisfie the importunity of your meſſenger, wiſhing ſuch a one to your lot, as might paragonnize thoſe excellencies you writ of, and anſwer euery way to the ſubſtance of all thoſe ineſtimable praiſes. So hauing your loue and your writing, (as I take it) be beſt ſuted together.

Yours as farre as modeſty will, to anſwer your courteſies.

January 24. 1638.

E.B.

Another Letter to his miſtreſſe, | deſiring her love.

GOod miſtris I.P. I am bold, though a ſtranger, to make theſe lines meſſengers at this preſent of my good meaning towards you: wherein I goe not about by pretence of a moſt entire and hearty good will, which I profeſſe to beare you, to make preſent ſurmiſe thereupon that on ſo bare an aſſertion you ſhould immediately credit me, I prize your worthineſſe at a far greater value, and weigh your good allowance ſo much, as I onely deſire by your fauourable liking I may intreat to haue acceſſe vnto you, not doubting but by being in your preſence, I ſhall ſo ſufficiently by apparent proofe maintaine the efficacy of that I now proteſt, and giue you ſo good occaſion to déeme well of me, as you ſhall haue no reaſon to repent you, that vpon ſo honeſt and louing a requeſt you haue condeſcended to my entreaty: whoſe health and proſperity tendring as mine owne, I ſend you with my Letter a token of that great affection I beare you, which I pray you moſt heartily to accept of, and weare for me. And euer ſo doe continue,

Yours, if ſo you pleaſe to accept of me.

R-M.

Her Anſwer.

SIr, your meſſage is to me as ſtrange as your ſelfe, who are vnto me a ſtranger, and what your good meaning vnto me is, I know not, for giuing of credit vnto your aſſertion, as you ſéeme not to challenge it, ſo was I neuer hitherto of my ſelfe ſo haſty to doe it, hauing oftentimes béene taught, that of faireſt ſpéeches enſue the foulеſt actions:

ons: I cannot condemne your purpoſe, becauſe I intend the beſt of your dealings, and howbeit I am in no point ſo reſtrained, but that in all reaſonable ſort that may be, any acceſſe maybe granted, ſo when you ſhall by farther notice ſufficiently make apparent that with modeſty I may doe it, I ſhall be willing ſo far forth as my yeares and preſent being may miniſter occaſion, in any thankfull requitall that may be, to yéeld my ſelfe vnto you. Till which time I returne your token againe, and my hearty thankes vnto you by this bearer.

Your friend as one unacquainted
hitherto may be.

I.P.

To a beauteous Lady upon a
long affection.

Faireſt of Ladies,

HOw vnpoſſible it is to kéepe heat from fire, being the very nature of the element, I referre to your beſt iudgement, and how neare a ſpirit of that nature, is the loue of the heart kindled by the eye of beauty, I leaue to your kindneſſe to conſider: ſince then ſuch is the force of true loue, as cannot be ſo ſmothered vp in ſilence, but that it muſt burſt out into words and actions, either to gaine comfort, or to ſuffer death, pardon (faireſt of beauties) that Patient that in anguiſh ſéekes eaſe, and deny not your help in the excellency of the cure: your beauty hath wounded me, your excellent feature, your comely geſture, your ſwéet behauiour, haue all concurred to make me vnhappy, vnleſſe your hand help me, and though the hurt be more felt than ſéene, yet is it not deadly, if you be kinde: loath I am to be a begger without deſert, and yet loue will ſtoope a high ſpi-

rit, which, by the bond of due honour hath sworne me your true seruant: in which Title, vnder heauen, shall bée my hearts greatest honour: and in the honour of whose fauour, shall be the height of my worlds happinesse: in hope whereof, praying to the highest Power in the heauens to blesse you with all felicity on earth, I rest,

Yours devoted, and not to be removed,

P.E.

Her Answer.

SIr, how easie it is to quench a fire in his first kindling, experience can deliuer: in the diuersity of heats loue being not the least that is like to do much hurt, I wish you to take order with your wits, lest it bring your braine to an ill temper: kindnesse without care, may breed care without comfort. And therefore in placing of affection, be not too far from discretion, lest the perswasion of selfe-will, bée an abuse of a better sense. If I had skill in Physicke, I would prescribe you helps for your disease, but being a simple woman, you must haue patience with my plainnesse, who not knowing how to doe you good, and vnwilling to wish you hurt, leauing you to a better Paradise than in the torment of an idle passion, I rest in what I may,

Yours as kindly as I find cause.

A.N.

To

To a judicious Gentlewoman.

Deare friend:

THe forcible effect and conqueſt which your beauty hath wrought in my heart, conſtrained me in your kindnes to place the hope of my fortune: beſeeching you ſo to equall your outward excellence with an inward perfection, that faith may not haue feare of fauour, where humilitie ſhall guide the courſe of affection: I ſhould eſteeme my ſelfe the moſt vnhappy, if I ſhould giue your eares any diſtaſte by my ſuit, but if it light within the line of your liking, it ſhall begin the garden of my paradiſe: ſo vnder heauen ſeeking no other ſtar, then the guide of your grace to lead my heart to the joy of my life: I reſt, neuer to reſt till I euer reſt,

From Madrid, Yours all, or mine owne nothing at all.

E C.

Her Anſwer.

I Am ſorry to think that a ſhadow of duſt ſhould haue that force (in conceit) to rob reaſon of his contents: for beauty is but a ſhadow, which if your eye hath found in my face, let it goe no further, leſt it doe wrong to my will in hurting your heart: my inſide I hope is farre from diſgracing any good in my outſide, and both altogether vnhappy, if they haue beene any occaſion of euill: but leſt I may ſeeme diſcontent either at the matter or manner of your writing, I diſcharge you of the burthen of that feare, by the kind acceptation of your affection, which though I cannot anſwer as I would, yet, as in good reaſon I may, I will think and conſider of, which if it fall out to your liking, bee not vnfaithfull in your loue, in hope whereof I reſt,

Yours wholly, if at all. A.B.

To

To a Lady, with whom he fell in love, seeing her at a solemne Triumph.

WHen I saw you (excellent Lady) viewing the Triumphs, looking vpon your eyes me thought Heauen opened to discouer a greater glory, and Angells tylting there tooke from my iudgement all things else done out of that blessed compasse: but mine amazement became my death, and my death must be your Triumph, for how euer the conflict appeared, your glaunces which were the wounding weapons, strucke through my weake sight, and slew my heart, though armed in the strongest fort of my bosome: I am not so happy as to be a prisoner (for there were hope) but so infortunate to die in despaire, that to haue the monument of my remembrance erected in the Temple of your pitty, is the vtmost aime my bliste lookes to: the cruelty of fair ones hath pronounced my iudgment, and saith, it is impossible to affect where they haue not seene: Oh see me in this sorrowfull paper, (you fairest of adored beauties) and let that sight moue affection, affection knowledge, knowledge pitty, and pitty that worke of the highest, which is onely to doe miracles, so shall cruelty giue himselfe the lie, proue you a goddesse, and make me (the happiest of men) a trumpet of your renowne and glory: My loue is like your goodnesse without parallel, my faith shall goe beyond that loue, and my seruice crown both with an infinite mercy. This is my sacrifice, which if you accept, (excellentest of faire beauties, and innobled with all rich perfections) I liue; if otherwise, my ioy is, I perish by so excellent a creature,

From Dover
June 9. 1638.

Prepared to suffer.

I.S.

Her

Her Anſwer.

SIr, he that of a light blow with the eye, makes a deadly wound of his heart, is either too vnworthily faint, or much ſuperſtitious in the ſignes and planets: for mine owne part, my knowledge aſſures me I am free from any ſuch malignant influence: I confeſſe a weake appetite vnguarded with Iudgement may oft ſtumble and receiue knockes, nay ſometimes fall to vtter ruine, and to giue to that weakneſſe the gouernment of my fortune, were to rob my ſelfe of all good mens pitties. In my worſt miſchances, the ills I cauſe not, reaſon cannot blame me, if I cure not, ſince what is without me nothing appertaines vnto mee: but you will make my beauty guilty: poore nothing, how pitifully art thou ſlandred: which being a meere Chymera of imagination, hath not any thing in thee, but the ſtrength of folly, and mans fancy, it is not a ſubſtance, for then it might bee felt, let looſe or reſtrained, it hath no certaine ſhape, for then all men would like one figure, nor hath it any abiding, for then it would euer be found in its owne manſion: it is not compounded of perfit colours, for then no man would doate of mixt deformities, nor doth it ſubſiſt of reall vertues, for then no man would wed with the vicious: to conclude, it is nothing hath hurt you, and that nothing I ſend to cure your raſhneſſe, ſhall not breed my repentance: your loue is too infinite, your faith too worthy, and your ſeruice too rich: a meaner proportion will guard ſafeſt a meane fortune, and ſo wiſhing your great ſacrifice to a greater deitie, I reſt,

Your beſt Counſeller

Canterbury.

A N.

To his mistris that was of wanton and of light carriage.

BEcause my vow of loue (my sometimes dearly beloued mistris) hath made me your friend, therefore the care of your honour shall make me your counseller: whether it come seasonable or no, examine your heart, that it comes freely and with a wholesome intent, truth be my witnesse. It is told me (mistris) that your actions are publickly noted for their contumelious lenity, and your wanton lightnesse is so marked by your beholders, that contempt is become your onely companion: your apparell is like your minde, inconstant and uncomely, and drawes rather admiration than reuerence: toyes are your studies, and vanities your practise, so that making your selfe a slaue to pleasure, you haue forgotten the violence of mis-fortune. If this be true (my dearely beloued mistris) then in this I must perish, since liuing in you your least fall wounds both me and mine honour: I know you are faire and young, but if you cloathe them here with vices, what will you weare in the graue but infamy? life runnes without feet, mis-fortune strikes without an alarme, and the glory of vanity breakes like a bubble, and leaues nothing behind but the print of disgraces: it is too much to be euill once, for the euill is neuer forgotten, and it is too little not to be euer good, since the smallest blot dashes all out of remembrance. Would I could as easily excuse you, as fame is apt to accuse you: pardon me if I be too bold in writing, it is urged by a too much boldnesse in action, the one made good, the other shall be gracious beyond expression: till then giue my penne leaue to keepe my heart from breaking.

Farndon.
Ianuar. 1638.

Your grieved Friend

A. Z.

Her

Her Answer.

A Zeale that is kindled (my best seruant) with the false fire of mens reports is rather held a superstition then an honest deuotion: for in both wrongs truth, and wounds an innocent reputation: and those light beleeuers, which build faith on such weake grounds, deserue nothing but ignominie and contempt: if now you accuse my life in your absence, where was your judgement when I walkt in your presence? Oh be not so false to the worth of your owne truth, to say you could not see that which all the world hath discouered, or if you did, to be so blinde to affect a thing vnworthy: but it may be, absence hath begotten new thoughts, those thoughts new affection, and that affection must needs finde a new quarrell with old friendship: if it be so, your owne course lead you, I freely confesse I am not such a begger that can weare ragges, such a miser that can eat roots, nor so subtill to speake like a jugler, with a reed in my mouth, Truth I serue, freedome I loue, and plainnesse is my condition. If these haue tasts you cannot relish, you must in some other soyle seeke new comforts, for mine own part I will be no bondslaue to opinion, till I know it constant, nor no seruant of the time, till it be vncorrupt, and more honest. As for my life had it for euery feather a wing, and my fortune double so many hazards, yet will I bring the one to my graue with honour, and make the other ashamed with my sufferance, I rest,

Maidstone. Your injuryed mistris.

May 7. D.P.

A desperate Louer to his quondam mistris.

IT shall be vertue in you (faireſt) to receiue my despaires though you returne no comforts, and if in the reading you vouchsafe a sigh to my remembrance, it is a dirge that shall make me for euer sleepe in quiet despaire long since gaue me iudgement, and obedience onely shall make my death patient: It is necessary I die for you since fate denies me to liue with you, for my selfe is such an interposition betwixt you and your glory, that my griefes would keepe much of your Sunne eclipsed: I know my wants, and that there is nothing either in my life or fortune to deserue you, onely an infinite desire, which but by death can neuer be lessened, then since all things sute with my despaires, be all delaies (with your loue) euer far from me, and let the world onely remember this in my Epitaph, that it was not my folly, but your will, not my despaire but truth in obedience: But O this is that I should doe, not speake: and the musicke is more vnfit for your eare, than your loue for my heart: pardon my tell-tale sorrow, it rather speakes things fit to be done, then done, and will sooner craue the glory in wish than in action, and yet the poison of disdaine is so violent, I know will waste me, and waste me it shall, for my comforts are already consumed: and in that consumption let all things but my memorie turne to its first Chaos: And so liue as happy as I vnfortunate:

Onely in remembrance.

Northampton. Septemb. 6. F.L.

Her

Her anſwer.

HOw much I ſtand diuided with the vnreaſonablenes of your affection, my diſtracted writing may witnes: wherein I can obſerue no order, becauſe nothing in your deſires holds good proportion, you bid me loue, and will not heare when deſtiny denies it, and you ſeeke that rule from me which is quite taken out of my knowledge: (deare Sir) awaken vp your firſt wiſdome, and tye your actions on prouidence, then ſhall you ſee I haue leſſe power to draw on mine, than you to withdraw your affection. Will you make beauty ſuch a ſlaue, that it muſt obey euery gaze, or the poore owner ſo vnfortunate, that ſhe muſt be ſeruile to the deſire of any wilfull longing, then ſo, how much ſafer were it to be foule and fortunate? But you will dye, woes me that folly ſhould make you ſo impudent, to boaſt you dare doe a ſinne ſo damnable? But I know you will dye, but as actors dye, in one ſceane, and reuiue in the next, to make it more glorious, thus to dye I allow you, and to ſuch I will giue a ſmile for pittie: to any other a charitable teare, to thinke that any Gentleman ſhould become a traitor to Nature. Laſtly, let me win you by the loue you boaſt of, neuer henceforth to ſollicite me, for as no reliefe can come from ſuch vaine labour, ſo nothing but great diſdaine will grow from my vexation: So hoping you will make that hope deſperate, which is without all hope of vertue, I reſt,

Your chaſt friend.

Rowel. March 7.

P.C.

A Letter of true kindnesse.

IF dame Nature had bene pleased to haue made my bosome transparent, your eyes should see the secrets of my heart, which if it haue any happinesse in the world, it is in the hope of your fauour: but amazed with the admiration of your worth, I know not what to say of your worthinesse, but onely this, that finding the due of your desert exceeding my capacitie in commendation, I will leaue the excellency thereof to a more honourable inuention, and thinke Fortune enough fauourable, if she prefer my seruice to your commandement: presents I haue none worth the sending, but the heart of my loue at your imploiment, which being nothing more than what you will, I rest, euer one and the same.

Your seruant.
W.W.

Her Answer.

IF your speeches be led by your thoughts, it is needlesse to desire a transparency in your bosome, for when as the heart and the tongue agree together, then mens protestations are followed with reall performance: words of admiration trouble discretion, in construction, and eloquence in loue hath not the best commendation, inventions are ready where fancie is studious, but where wit is vertuous, there is will gracious: your present most worthy of all acceptance, cannot be better requited than thankfully remembred, and if conceits meet in a mutuall content, what comfort may follow, I leaue to the heauens fauour, and so I rest,

Your friend.

A.VV.

A Letter of counsell from a discreet mother to her daughter newly marryed.

MY good daughter, thou art now going into the world, and must leaue to be a child, and learne to be a mother, and looke to a family, rather than to the entertainement of a friend, and yet both necessary, in their kindnes: finde the disposition of thy husband, and in any wise moue not his impatience, let thy kindnesse binde his loue, thy vertue his comfort, thy huswiferie his commendations: auoid tatling Gossips, yet be kinde to thy neighbours, and no stranger to thy kindred: be gentle to thy seruants, and not ouer familiar: haue an eye to thy doore, and a locke to thy chest: kéepe a bit for a begger, and a bone for a dogge: cherish the Bée that brings home hony, and make much of the Cocke that makes much of his Chickens, take héed abroad of the Kite, and within of the Rat: pray to God for his blessings on all thy procéedings, and haue a religious care of thy modest gouernment, and rather for charitie than praise, giue relefe vnto the poore: if at any time thou hast néed of any good I can doe thée, be assured whilst thou hast a mother thou hast a friend: so hoping in thy kindnesse, thou wilt take care of my counsell, beséeching God to blesse thée, that I may euer haue ioy of thee, with my hearts loue, to his tuition I leaue thée.

Thy most loving mother.

R.S.

Her answer.

MY good Mother, I haue passed the yeares of a childe and know the care of a mother, & therefore for your kinde aduise for my carriage I thank you, and what benefit

I will make of your lessons, you shall finde in the fruit of my obseruation, I am but newly come into the world, and God knowes when I shall goe out of it, and am yet scarce warme in my house, and therefore hardly know yet how to goe through it, For my husbands humour, if he alter not his nature, I doe not doubt but we shall liue as Doues, while care & kindnesse shall continue content: my seruants shall finde me both a Mistresse and friend, my neighbours no stranger, & idle Gossips no companion. Thus in the duty of loue, with thankes to your motherly care, in prayer to the Almighty to blesse me with his grace, and to liue no longer than in his loue and yours: I take my leaue, for this time, but rest during life,

Your most loving daughter.
P.E.

A Letter in case of wrong supposed to be committed.

SIr, your letter is more troublesome to my conceit, then sauouring (as I am credibly led to thinke) of that your wonted most noble disposition vnto me, I haue receiued. With what supportation and vnaccustomed griefe I haue retained them, I referre to any one (guiltlesse accused and suspended from so high fauours, as formerly by your bountie to me haue beene performed) simply to be coniectured. Long was it ere I could satisfie my selfe by any accesse that might be, to proffer my selfe or these humbled Letters vnto you, yet nenertheleslesse weighing how farre different, those new occurrents were from those your ancient fauors, I surmised with my selfe, that the instigation proceeded solely from others, hardly perchance bearing those graces wherein

wher ein I ſtood with you, and becomming thereupon my bitter enemies, the ſiniſter deuiſe whereof ſtood vpon mee wholly to ouerthrow or impugne. For which hauing no other or better meanes at this time than theſe ſubmiſſiue lines, I purpoſe them vnto you as ſollicitors of your former liking, confeſſing if in any waies I haue erred vnto you, as I will not vtterly ſeclude my ſelfe from euery error, it was but as a young man rather by ignorance than of malice any way to be intended: as touching any other obiection, let me but craue pardon to haue acceſſe vnto your preſence, and then iudge as you finde me: two waies are only left: my accuſers to my face, or mine owne ſimplicitie to cleare me. this is all I require, and ſo much I hope you will not deny me: wherewith reſting with due acknowledgment of that your former bountie, I humbly ſurceaſe, this 15. of December 1638.

Yours to command.

T.G.

A Letter from a ſervant to his maſter.

SIR, my humble duty remembred vnto you, and to my good miſtris. You may pleaſe to vnderſtand that I haue diſpatcht the buſineſſe vnto Maſter C. for the monie you ſent me for, and haue giuen him an acquittance for the ſame, and according to your good remembrance vnto me, I haue bought for you twelue gallons of the beſt Sacke, and eighténe gallons of Claret, and fifténe yards of fine Wrad-cloath, and thirtie Ells of fine Holland, all which I hope by Gods grace ſhall come vnto your hands: I haue ſent you alſo here incloſed your Bill of parcells, and their ſeuerall prices.

I wrote formerly vnto you for certaine commodities out of the Country, which I haue now receiued by the Carier. Here is at this present small newes worth the writing vnto you: wherefore praying vnto Almighty God for the health and prosperity of you and all yours, I humbly take my leaue, and rest,

Your faithfull and ready seruant to command,

I.P.

An answer of a Letter for courtesie and favour received.

My good friend M. C. how much I am bound vnto you for a multitude of fauours, and specially for that you haue made choice of me, as to write your kinde and friendly Letters in my behalfe, I can no other waies expresse, than to continue your affectionate poore friend, and will for euer acknowledge it, as of your great kindnes beyond any merit of mine owne, and as by duty I am bound, no day shall passe me that I will not pray to God for your health and prosperitie, and the redoubling of your dayes: beseeching you to excuse me in that in person I cannot doe or performe what I desire, by reason at this time some haft extraordinary will not permit me. I therefore most humbly take my leaue of you, this 14. of May.

Your affectionate poore friend.

P.C.

The

The Fathers Letter againſt the Sonne.

THe ſight of your Letters & meſſage receiued by your ſeruant, haue (good Couſin) bred to me in peruſing and hearkning vnto the ſame no ſmall matter of diſquiet; not that your Letters or meſſages for themſelues are or haue beene at any time ill welcome to my hands, but in reſpect of him for whom they come, ſo filled haue I been long ſince with the euills by him committed. I am nothing ignorant that of meere loue and good will you framed your ſpeech vnto me in the behalfe of my vngracious Sonne, I haue brought him vp to a mans eſtate: how likewiſe I ſought both with maintenance & place of credit to continue him as a Gentleman. I placed him with a right godly and worſhipfull Knight Sir T.H. who for my ſake loued him, and I know toke paines to reforme him. Complaints were infinite againſt him. This man could not be quiet for him, that mans ſeruants he miſ-bred: this party he deceiued, and others highly wronged. Since which (too much to be reuealed) how ſtubbornly in mine owne houſe, how iniuriouſly amongſt my owne people hath he behaued himſelfe. And becauſe it was againſt Chriſtians, and I would not diſmiſſe him vnfurniſhed, I gaue him for himſelfe and his man, a couple of good Geldings, and twenty pound in his purſe: he was no ſooner gone twenty miles, but ſpent his money at Cards and Dice, pawnd his apparell, ſold his Geldings, and in the end comming to one of my Tenants to borrow money, which he denied to lend him, he fell vpon him and beat him. Thus (louing Couſin) you ſee in part his ill led life, and many thereby conceiue my griefe: ſending in the meane time my commendations and earneſt thanks for your care of my well being, to you and your bedfellow. This 20. Aug. 1638.

T.R.

The Answer.

I Haue receiued your letter (my kinde vncle) in answer to the last letter I sent, which was the businesse of your son, I am very sorry that a gentleman of your grauity & knowledge in the world, and for the good estimation that the country hath of you, that Master E C. your sonne, should deale so vnkindly with you. I know your fatherly care of him from time to time, and how diligent, and not sparing any cost in bringing him vp, & to place him with a Gentleman of the best rank in all the country: it was nobly done, yet withall you might (if so you please) doe well to consider he is your owne sonne, and if you looke into your owne youth, you shall finde these were your youthfull straines, and so much the more to be borne withall, and time and age will tame all these things in any ingentous and witty Gentleman I desire you for my sake retain him kindly into your fauour this once more, for he hath (vpon the reputation of a Gentleman) promised neuer to doe the like enormities but liue as a most dutifull and louing sonne: and for the same I dare passe my credit. I pray you entertaine him respectiuely, and I will euer remaine,

Your loving kinsman.

T.F.

To

To his miſtris (quondam) having ſpent all his meanes upon her in proſperity, he being impriſoned ſhe forſakes him.

IF my paper were made of the skins of croaking Toads, or ſpeckled Adders, my inke of the blood of Scorpions, my pen pluckt from the Scrèech-owles wings, they were but fit inſtruments to write vnto thée, that art more venemous, more poiſonous, more ominous, than the worſt of theſe: for doe but deſcend into the depth of thy guilty conſcience, and ſée with how many vowes, promiſes, and deepe protestations, nay millions of oathes haſt thou ſworn thy fidelitie to me, which one day will witneſſe againſt thée. If I ſhould ſpeake with the voice of Mandrakes, or as loud as the noiſe of the Summers thunder, yet could I not proclaime vnto the world thy infinite baſeneſſes, I being ſo firme and conſtant vnto thée: when I ſwom in the golden flouds of proſperitie, then waſt thou (as often thou didſt proteſt) firme and conſtant vnto me: But when the water began to ebbe, and my ſhip run on ground, then (like thy ſelfe) thou forſookeſt me. At firſt thy loue was as hot to me, as an Italian to a wench of fiftéene, but when my gold was ſpent and conſumed, then thy loue grew as cold to me, as a Fiſhmongers fingers are in a great froſt. Doe not thinke I write this vnto thee to be a meanes to helpe me in this my great diſtreſſe and impriſonment: for know thou though all my friends haue forſaken me, nay though death, griefe, affliction, and all the miſeries that poſſibly can befall a miſerable man in this wretched world while he liueth here, and all theſe griefes doe euery minute torment me, yet I had rather fall by their force, than riſe by thy aſſiſtance: ſo hatefull, ſo grieuous, ſo loathſome, ſo tedious, and ſo incomparably abominable is thy very name vnto me.

Leprosie compared to thée, is all health: and all manner of infection but a flea-biting: and all manner of diseases, though they were fetcht from twenty Hospitalls, were but like the fit of an Ague: for thou art all Leprosie, all diseases, for neither thy bodie nor thy soule are frée: thy bodie, from the disease of shame and disgrace of the world: nor thy soule frée from the sicknesse of sinne. God amend and pardon thée.

Once thy friend.

I.P.

To his friend lying long sicke.

My worthy friend Master Prince: though the distance of place be such, that we cannot heare one another, you in the center of the kingdome (London) I at Yorke, yet you shall sée me in my Letters: my tongue, mypenne, my heart, are all your seruants. You plainly perceiue a long lingring sicknesse will draw you to a long desired rest, where long your minde hath had his residence. You now perceiue, Fame is but a smoak, metals but drosse, pleasure but a pill in sugar. All these earthly delights if they were sound, how short they are, fleeting euery day: they are but as a good day betwixt two Agues, or like Sodoms Apples, faire red outsides, being handled are blacke dust. I admire the faith of Moses, but presupposing his faith, I wonder not at his choice, that he preferred the affliction of Israel to the pleasures of Ægypt, and chose rather to eate the Lambe with sowre herbs, than all their flesh-pots. That God hath giuen you a vertuous Wife, dutifull Children, wealth in abundance, an honest estéeme and a good repute amongst your neighbours and the generall loue of your country

country where you liue, are fauours that loke for thanks: Who would desire to liue, that knowes his Sauiour died? who can be a Christian and would not be like him? would you be happy & not die? indeed Nature knowes not what she should haue. Our friends of this world can neither abide vs miserable in our stay, nor happy in our departure. What God hath giuen you on earth, is nothing to that he will giue you in heauen: you are a stranger here: there at home. There Saints and Angells shall applaud you, there God himselfe will fill you with himselfe: haue patience in all afflictions, and reade the troubles of Job, and in that exercise your selfe both day and night, vntill God shall either mend or end these your dayes on earth. To which great God and mercifull Lord I commit you, praying for your eternall rest.

Remaining your friend.

I.M.

A Letter wherein is recommended to a Nobleman from his inferiour, the conditions and behaviour of a person.

MAy it please your Lordship, this gentlemã the bearer hereof, with whom a long time I haue bin acquainted, and of his qualities and good behauiour haue found and large experiment, hauing bin a good time a suter vnto me, to mone his preferment vnto your Lordships seruice: I haue now at last condescended vnto, as well for that I know your Lordship to be now presently disfurnished of such a one, as also that there will hardly be preferred vpon the sudden any one so meet as himselfe to supply that place. And thus much by your pardon and allowance dare I assure

sure vnto me, that if it may please you in credit of my simple knowledge and opinion to imploy him, you shall finde that besides he is in parentage descended from such of whom I know your Lordship will very well account of, he is also learned, discreet, sober, wise, and moderate in all his actions, of great secresie, assured trust, and well gouerned in all companies. Finally, a man so meet and to this present turne so apt and necessary as I cannot easily imagine how you may be serued better. Pleaseth your Lordship the rather, for the great good will I beare him, and humble dutie I owe vnto you, to accept, imploy, and account of him: I nothing doubt but your Lordship hauing by such meanes giuen credit to my choice, shall finde him such, as for whose good seruice, you shall haue further occasion to thinke well of me for him, Whereof nothing doubting I doe referre both him and my selfe, in all humblenes to your best and most fauourable opinion. From my house in Arthingworth this 5. of June.

The Answer.

After my hearty commendations vnto you. Sithence the receipt of your last letters and commendations of W.R. vnto my seruice, I haue had small occasion either to write or to send vnto you till this present: and for as much as vpon your certain notice deliuered vnto me in fauour of his preferment, I held my selfe so well assured in all things of his behauiour, as I doubted not thereupon to receiue him into place of greatest fidelity. I haue thought good hereby to let you vnderstand, what great pleasure I haue taken in his diligent attendance, assuring you, for many vnexpected qualities, which I haue proued to be in him, and that with so good affection, as that I intend not to omit any thing that may tend to his aduancement. In beholding of him oftentimes, me thinkes he many wayes doth resemble his father, whose sound truth I doe suppose might haue bin entertained

tertained with the best for his well deseruing: this bearer shall informe you of two speciall causes concerning my affaires in the country, whom I do pray you to conferre with & to afford him your trauell for his present dispatch, which I will not faile heartily to requite vnto you. For your care had of my wants, and diligent supply of such a one, I doe many times thanke you. And euen so I bid you heartily farewell.

From the Court this 5. of
May 1638.

A merry Letter to his friend in London.

Heroicall spirit:

I Haue receiued your Epistle of alacritie, and remaine much indebted to your kinde heart for vouchsafing vs poore country Swaines so much of the labour of your pen to deceiue our slow-footed time withall: Thankes vnto the Almightie, I haue had my health indifferent well since my comming downe, onely the separation of my second selfe hath beene a continuall sickneſſe vnto me: to remedy which I haue hitherto found out no better way than to call for a cup of Rubicular, to help to exhilarate and corroborate my fatigated spirits. We Rurricolars are very barren of any nouelty, wor'thy the presenting to your curious vnderstanding, but doe presume out of the bundle of your affection that you that liue at the wels head will be pleased to vouchsafe vs your poore friends a report by your Letters, at least of such Exchange newes as passeth current amongst you, which we shall take as a speciall fauour from you, and study how to remunerate. We are at this present putting foot into the stirrop, and riding some dozen horse of vs to a maritime coast, where there will be prouided for vs all the ra-

ties for fish the Sea can afford, where I will not be vnmindfull to remember all your healths in a full ocean. In the meane time commending my loue to my louing sister your wife, with your worthy selfe and all our friends, I wish you all true happinesse sutable to a braue disposition, and will euer rest,

Your assured loving
Brother.
R.S.

A Letter gratulatorie.

Good Mr. P.

I Am yet to learne the phrase and method how to write to so beneficient a friend as your selfe, to whom I stand obliged more by desert than I can answer with requitall, and more in affection than I am able to merit: a predicament it is into which I am easily and often (as it were) precipitated, and out of which to raise my selfe, fortune only hath disabled me, who if with your gifts she had supplied my wants, and giuen me competent wealth to the freedome of my will, my honest heart should not be debtor to the hand of any, nor should my disabilitie curbe the scope of my affection: but seeing wishes are but vaine, I pray you accept these my lines as tokens of the remuneration of my thanks and the acknowledgement of the loue of

Your humble seruant.

D.P.

A Letter to his silent friend.

YOu are happily innocent (dearest friend) what paine I am in, and with what vnrest I spend my irksome daies, through your parcimoniousnesse, and sparing of a little inke and paper: Is it not enough that I am depriued of your sight, but I must be also vnsaluted by your Letters: one of them alone doth too waightily oppresse me with sorrow, and ouerwhelme my heart with disquietnesse. As place hath wrought a separation betweene our bodies, will you permit also that a few daies absence shall burie each others remembrance in the Lethean waues of oblivion: oh be not so injurious vnto sacred friendship, which is the greatest joy allotted vnto mortall men in all the vniuerse: I haue got the start of you in writing, but I hope I shall not need to send you any more expostulatorie Letters for our sicknesse in this kinde. For the sound state of my bodie I am well, yet I cannot be said to be perfitly well, being (as I am) so sollicitous for your welfare, and so ignorant of your health, who are Animæ dimidium meæ.

Farewell,

Animæ dimidium tuæ.

B.H.

The Answer, excusing his not writing.

LEt the multitude of my businesses and my want of bodily health, and debility, plead my excuse with you for my remissenes in writing. The drift of these present lines is to apologize for that I writ to you no sooner, and to enquire of your health and welfare. Compare not, nor do not thinke my loue as little as my writing, for I protest vnfainedly, that if I may stead you in any kind, or if my means can procure any thing to make a clearer manifestation of

my manifold loue, you shall assuredly find whensoeuer any occasion shall offer it selfe to you, to make tryall whst great interest you haue in me and my best affection, I cease, euer resting

Yours to my power.

W.W.

A letter expostulatory for breach of promise.

IT had bæne more honesty in you to haue giuen me a spédy denyall, than not to performe what you so constantly promised me, for then you had not injuryed me, because you had not owed me any thing. Promise is debt: for I yet hope you are none of the number of those men who thinke promises doe not bind them vnto performance: this is my beliefe of you yet, it is in your power to make mée hold or alter my opinion. I onely desire thus much of you, if you will not doe me that good turne, yet leaue doing me injury: fæd me not with imprositient words, but bid me not trust any longer to vaine hopes. In briefe, you shall much oblige me by doing that kindnesse, by omission thereof you shall make me muse at the lacke of your fidelity and at your carelesnesse to incurre the report and infamy of a dishonest man.

Your injured friend.
H.G.

To his friend falne to poverty.

IF your wealth had bæne the foundation of my loue, I should now cease to loue, because you are no longer rich, but

but should I now so erre, I should shew my selfe to haue beene vnto you in your prosperitie not a friend, but (like vnto the rest, that haue derelinquished you in your pouerty) a meere flatterer: we se how during the Summer time the Swallowes flocke to our houses, we may obserue how Mice will be sure to get into the barne, that is replenished with corne; and while the pot hath any hony it is hard kéeping the flies away: but rare is the friendship which starts not in the probation time of aduersitie. Besides that poore comfort of aduersity, pitty, I lend you the summe of twenty pounds, which so long make vse of, till Time, the mother of mutations, encrease your store with a proportion able to make repaiment to

Your friend to his
ability.

I.R.

A letter of a Gentlewoman to a Gentleman with whom she fell in love.

IF euer I could wish my selfe vnborne (most worthy sir) or my well being taken from mée, I call truth and my sometimes modesty to witnesse, it is now: not that I haue found you, but that I am forced thus to séeke you. Call to minde (faire, and I hope vertuous Sir) some horrid and violent women, taken with the lone of their owne fathers, as was Mirha: or incestuously pursuing their nearest brother, as was Biblis: so my affection will appeare more modest, and my suit more pardonable: I dearely lone you, (and in so saying me thinks the gods blush to heare me.) who in the strictest lawes of desire is most worthy to bée loued, whose vertues might inflame a Nunne, and excei-

lentest qualities take the most retired: If I haue (as I know too well I haue) contrary to the nature and custome of Virgins, ouer-shot my selfe in my violent passions, pardon her that had rather die than make it knowne, yet chuseth rather to make it knowne, than not enjoy you so desired, and farre more worthy to be desired. If you were acquainted what afflictions I suffer in my discouery, yet fearing all will not serue, you will, I hope, rather incline to pittie, than disdaine: little will the death of a silly mayden auaile the triumph of your beautie, and the ouerthrow of my credit lesse benefit your vertue. Raise me from the one by your loue, and assure me from the other by your secresse: whilest I will euer remaine a most constant votaresse of all your perfections, blessing the parents that left behinde them such an issue.

Althorp. May 22. Never lesse her owne.

R.D.

His answer.

HOw happy may I thinke my selfe (sweetest of creatures, & beautifullest of women) that hauing bound my selfe in the search and pursuits of a jewell, haue it now offered & giuen into my hands, farre aboue my expectation: far transcending my hopes: I accept it as louingly, as you freely bestow it, and will account it no lesse deare and pretious, than if much time and long labour had beene the purchase of it, esteeming it a blessing throwne vpon me, by the appointment of the highest, and, sutable to my happy desires. Nor shall I need to load my memory with those horrid examples, to giue your loue a freer and welcomer passage into the very depth of my loue and choicest desires: to loue we were made, and by loue we are made: they onely are without being that haue not the heauenly taste and enjoying

ſoying of it, I onely deny thoſe excellencies which you lay to my vnguilty charge, it was the reflection of your owne worth (ſtrucken from me) which hath Narciſſus like ſo inamoured you, it was your owne image ſhowne in my eies, which hath thus captiuated you, which ſince you like in ſo dim and dull a myrror, I will cheriſh, and make much of it only for your ſake, that you may the perfectlier ſee your ſelfe, and the more loue me: for your loue, take all I am; for my ſecreſſe, I will not breathe it to my ſelfe how I attaine this happineſſe, but liuing and dying, reſt the true honourer and admirer of your worth and vertue,

Yours more than his owne.

H.H.

A letter from a Chapman in the Country to a Tradeſman in London.

My louing and kinde friend M.G. you haue done me much wrong in detaining the wares I writ for: I haue diſappointed ſome Gentlemen in relying vpon you, whoſe cuſtome hath much aduantaged me: my credit I hope will euer be aboue that value: and my dealing for much more yearely betweene vs might without other circumſtances therein haue ſatisfied you: I muſt tell you plaine, in the Country there are many good men, whoſe eſtates are knowne very ſufficient, which cannot raiſe money vpon their credit in an inſtant: we want a common banke with vs which might furniſh vs ſuddenly and thorowly: Brokers trade not here, nor Uſurers take their place, but in Summer for their recreation: thinke, (friend) me an honeſt man, and ſo you haue much cauſe to thinke: confident in which, though my eſtate were brittle, (as I thanke

thank God) I know it is sure: you may be assured, I will never faile nor deceiue you. I roue not beyond my compasse, neither make a sure foundation out of other mens ruines, but content with a little, leaning a blessing to my children and good memory amongst my neighbours. Let me hear from you concerning the cause of this breach, and a note of the reckoning betweene vs, which I will make euen, and rather rest honest than rich.

Your true friend as you
shall use me.

I.G.

The Answer.

MAster N. truly it much grieues me you were so disappointed, and the negligence of my man went not away vnpunished, by whose default the Carrier went without them: beleeue me on my word, and I account my selfe happier in being a master of that, than in much riches, no feare of paiment, nor least doubt of your estate was any hinderance to it: I haue well knowne you by others, & haue had so much experience of you my selfe, that you shall sooner want occasiõ for wares, then I confidence to trust you: your neighbours speake much good of you, and all men that know you giue you a fair report, which makes me happy both in your custome and friendship. If sinister occasions shall at any time happen (as while we are here they are incident vnto vs) I shall rather pitty your fortunes than call in question your faire dealings. And know we are all men accountable euery instant for all our possessions. The Carrier this weeke brings those commodities, and better and more vendible you neuer had of mee: and I verily beleeue the Gentlemen will think themselues happily repaid in the stay, with the exceeding goodnes & lastingnes of the wares.

For

For your reckonings, at more leisure I will peruse & send them, in whose place receive my kind commendations, and entreaty for my mans carelesnesse, I bid you most heartily farewell.

Your friend as you know.

I.G.

A Letter of thankfulnesse for kindnesse shewed to his Sonne.

SIR, the favours you have already done me, are of such effect and merit, that I shall never be at quiet untill I have made some requitall of them. I am ashamed you should be thus continually troubled with a sonne of mine, whom I have charged to obey you in all things as my self, and I pray you doe so much as have a carefull hand over him, as if you were his father, or he your onely childe: I kindly and heartily thanke you for the apparell you have made him lately, which is decent, comely, and profitable, and the money you have paid for him, you may accommodate him with the rest if you thinke it fitting: for my part I give you all power and authority over him, seeing you are pleased to take the trouble upon you. So wishing but to meete with some good occasion that may lye in my poore power, to acknowledge how much I am beholding unto you, I for this time commit you to the protection of the Almighty, Resting

Your assured loving friend,

D.B.

The Answer.

MAster B. I haue receiued your Letter concerning your son. Sir, for any fauour I can doe you, either in this or any other, I shall be right willing, knowing how much from time to time I and mine are bounden vnto you. And assure your selfe it shall be no trouble vnto me to vse the best of my counsell and care ouer him. For his apparell, it will keepe him warme, I know, which is the principall thing I aime at, & I hope pleasing to him and his friends. The other money I shall deliuer him as I shal see good both for himselfe to vse, and the credit of you his father. Moreouer (Sir) he is to me very dutifull and louing, by which he shall lose nothing in my care of his welfare, & he very well spends his time at Scholl, and to good purpose I hope: wherein I doubt not you shall haue great comfort. He behaueth himselfe so well by his good demeanure to all, that he is generally beloued of all my neighbors. For my power and authority ouer him, I will imploy my self only for his good, and your fatherly care committed to me. And so with a thousand commendations I commit you to God.

Your friend.

I.D.

A Letter to his Mistris in the Country that desired newes from the Citie.

MOst excellent mistris, your command (which is to me a law) binds me to obey you, and though the taske be infinite hard to containe so great a beast in so little paper, yet for your satisfaction, I will delineate to life the proportion

proportion of some of his members. It is newes you desire & beleeue me (for one) since I came into the City, I haue not seene or heard any thing old: euen from the Capitoll, to the Cottage, all things are in their new garments, the Court hath new fauourites, the City a new Senate, and the common-wealth new officers: the first are as great as good, the second are as rich as wise, and the third as awefull as iust. Men are new, for where they should loue they feare, women are new, for where they should honour they subdue, and children are new, for where they should reuerence they astonish, Customes and manners are new, for the poore daily feed the rich, the rich cozen the great, and the great make fooles of the good ones. The fashions though they were neuer old, are now newer then euer, for in man or woman there is not a point to chuse betwixt the sexes, the one hath descended so much downeward, and the other ascended so much vpward, that met in one circle, they are both now trussed vp together without difference: Apparell that was made to couer, is now made to discouer folly and lewdnesse, and they are finest that are nearest to the naked Anatomy: Discourse is new, for wise men talke of their wealth, learned men of their deceit, and great men of vanity. Old men like old Wolues boast of their preyes past, middle age like Lyons talke of that which is in their powers, & children like dogges bark at the reuenges which shall be: our Citizens like Asses, are proud of rich burthens, and like Apes, ioy in pyde trapping, and our gallants like Beere-brewers horses bragge how much drinke they can carry. To conclude, all things are so new, that euen vertue her selfe is despised in old garments, and hee that keepeth any phrase of his fore-fathers, is but a rude speaker, for to say Hic mulier, is now the purest and truest Latine. Thus (my deare Mistresse) you haue the newest Newes of the season, which I write rather to keepe you in your old way of vertue, then to lose your selfe in the folly of imitation. I know your goodnesse, and how true a re-

warder it is of its owne merits, relie vpon it ever, it will make your end happy and my life fortunate, that am the seruant of so great a perfection.

T.W.

Her answer.

YOu haue sent me (worthy seruant) my desire back with so great an interest, that I stand two waies fearefull how to receiue it, either to incurre the suspicion of too greedy an inquiry, or the enuy of a weake nature, that is pleased with detraction: frō both which I am free, in as much as my aime is held within the leuell of modesty. I confesse, the parts you haue giuen me may belong to a beast, or rather a Monster, for the shape hath little proportion: yet I haue heard of excellent Painters which haue made curious peeces of perspective, that beheld with a liberall eie on the plaine Table, hath appeared vgly & most deformed, but the sight strained and drawne into a more seuere & narrow cōpasse, it hath beene beautifull, and in the glory of the best perfection: such, I feare, was the picture from whom you tooke your copy, and looking vpon it the wrong way, you saw the lines, but not the beauty. I doe confesse, the world is old, yet not so old but I may continue to weare out many new garments. Age makes it subject to sicknes & infirmity, and what better defence then warme and sound cloathing? Sickneſse brings corruption, and ill sauours, what better preuention then much shift and many new things? so that I conclude, these nouelties which you dislike are but to cure something in the world that is vnwholesome. Again I haue seene an Italian Comedy, consisting of a louer, a woman, a zany or foole, & a deuill, & to it I may fashion the world, for that is the stage, the people the actors, each degree haue their zany and their deuill: Now if the zany will steal his masters apparell, and make betweene vice & vertue no

difference

difference, blame not the discretion of the master, if it deuise new fashions, till either the foolish zany be tryed, or the deuill for his pride fetch him away, and conclude the enterlude. This (my best seruant) you may apply at your pleasure, for mine innocence hath taught me that charity, not to accuse any of that crime I would not my selfe be guilty, nor is my defence and argument to draw on your silence: but rather a motiue to make you more liberall, in bestowing on me the rest of your collections: in which doubt not my constancy, since no inchantments can make me forget to preserue my selfe euer worthy to be your Mistris.

M S.

A wooing and comforrable letter to a noble widow that had newly lost her husband.

THough (my noble widow) I am the last that send you comfort, yet was I the first that felt your anguish, and will be the readiest of all men to serue you in your trouble: you haue lost a dearely desired husband, & found an infinite way to griefe, the one is the act of Nature, & cannot be preuented, the other is the worke of Nature, and by wisedome must be corrected: Remember (faire widow) who is gone (a good man) to whom he is gone (to a good God) and from whom (from the wicked World, and worse people) and you shal find more cause to praise heauen for his happines, then to murmure for your losse of comfort; a good man dies to liue, there is your joy, an ill man liues to die, there is true anguish: the joyes of marriage should be writ in Table-bookes, not vpon paper, that Widowes might blot and rubbe out the writing, for they ought not to remember the delights past, but to meditate on pleasure to come, not to marry for eternity, but during the will of heauen, neither

haue you lost any thing, for he was but a treasure lent you, and to grieue at the repaiment were to wrong your goodnesse with ingratitude. Beléeue me Madame, were your cure in my hands, as your griefs is at my heart, neither should your anguish hurt you, nor the memory of your losse surviue a moment, but it is in heauen and your wisedome, couple them together by yéelding to prouidence, and you shall sée your comforts flow vpon you in a new tide, you haue reputed me your friend, and shaped your best actions by my counsels, you were neuer more weake then now because alone, nor did you euer stand in more need, because many assaults are prepared against you: to kéepe you then in perfect safety, please you make me of a tryed friend, a true husband, of a faithfull Counseller, a profitable Ruler, and of an able helpe a deuout seruant. I doubt not but you shall finde that armor against all necessities, which shall both guard you against injuries, and bring you much honour; my character you know best, for I am no stranger, and my zeale you may judge by my former seruices, if they appeare faultlesse before you, there will be no let but ceremony, which to countenance against vertue, were to bée guilty of foule superstition: you are wise, and that wisedome I make my aduocate, if he approue me worthy to be yours, my faith shall make me your truest seruant among the liuing.

F.R.

Her Answer.

SIR, had the comfort you sent me come in a true wedding garment, pure and one intire stuffe: I could not haue chosen but receiued it as the rest of your chaste counsels, and feasted on it with my daily meditation, but being so disorderly patcht, I can neither beliene it is yours, nor affect that which is so vncomely. You haue sent me delicate

gilt

gilt pills, where though the gold be more then the poison yet is this poison enough to confound. Therefore as much as with safety I may retaine (for your ancient friendship) I will keepe and study, the rest pardon me to returne you, not out of malice to your wish, but griefe at your folly, you haue told me so well the excellency of my losse, that it were madnesse in me to run into a second hazard, and how euer you would take from widdowes the blisse of remembrance, yet deare Sir, know that I can neuer forget this maxime, That the death of a good husband ought not to take away the loue of a chaste wife. To conclude, what you desire is not in my power to grant, for all my loue I haue sent with him to the graue, whom I haue lost: and to hold me without that portion, were to grasp a cloud that would bring forth a centaur, yet from thence should either Fate or my follies deliuer it, I could not finde any more worthy then your selfe to keepe it: but the first is too constant, and the latter (I hope) shall neuer so farre rule in me: Therefore being as you were, a chaste counsellour, and no seducer, you shall finde me, as you haue done, a faithfull cabinet full of your goodnesse.

EL.

Another to the same purpose.

Much honoured Mistris.

The neuer ceasing streame of your gracious kindnesses hath by the often thinking on their due deseruings profoundly imbosomed themselues in my gratefull affection, which no course of tedious time can extenuate, nor the longest absence by distance haue power to diminish. But oh most kind meriter of all respect, whose good will I estimate as my greatest enrichment, although the condigne requitall of such your rare courtesies lie not in the compasse

and

and precinct of my poore power, whose tenuity is not able to pay such an exceeding tribute: yet how willing my mind is, and how inextinguishable my desires, this illiterate Epistle will testifie, which devoyd of elegancies, yet full fraught with the unfeigned profession of my love, promiseth the implayment of my uttermost powers in all serviceable endeavors, if all that I can doe may but defray one mite of your invaluable courtesies. Command my service, there is not any thing so great that I will shrinke, or so small that I will disdaine to effectuate for your sake, having vowed to dye before any word issuing from your lips shall come in vaine.

But lest I should detract too much time from your more serious affaires, in all humility I take my leave.

Yours unfainedly.

R.S.

Her answer.

THough I am far from vanity to esteeme my selfe worthy of the style of beauty, yet I see not how to excuse your sinister opinion, that would thereto annex so great an inconvenience: for it seemes (if things might be ordered by your minde) you would have beauty and love to be inseparable companions: oh grosse, oh absurd wish, and most execrable position against beauty and love Then any vicious, deformed or beggerly creature, being but conducted by good fortune to the view of some rare Virgin, this unworthinesse must not onely be entertained, but he that rather deserved to be hissed away with disdaine, must straight be made the owner and Lord of her love: Nor shall it be in her power to give a repulse to the presumption of indigne suters, or to make free election of a deserving personage, to honour him with her gratious favour.

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But I hope Sir, being thus clearly convinced, you will confesse and make recantation of your error, I rest as I have reason.

Yours not to use.
S.M.

A letter of discontent after the falling out of Lovers.

Most discourteous and painted friend.

IT is the custome of Lovers after the breach of their league and amity, to send backe those gratuities, which formerly passed as tokens of their naturall affections: you have taken up the fashion, and beléeve me I abhorre any longer to have neerenesse with one of your qualification, who for méere trifles can dissolve the knot of friendship, & shake hands with familiarity. For know that your memory which was sometime deare in my thoughts, is now abhorred, séeing that the firmnesse and stability of affection, (than which there is nothing ought by men more religiously to be observed) you have so causelessly brought to annihilation. I may parallel my present condition to the state of the Sunne when pitchy clouds with inuironing him round about, séeme to extinguish his splendor, but time the perfecter of all terrestriall things, may in due season impart a lustre correspondent to my hopes, and suitable to my disposition: till when I will scorne the blasts of aduersity, and all those who having little or no merit, are endowed by the dispensation of the Owle-eyd goddesse Fortune with large possessions: howsoeuer if I can find no better to converse and spend my time withall then your selfe, I will turne Momus, and for euer hate the society of men: but having a better opinion of the generality for your part I cashiere you with this Ultimum vale and rest,

A stranger, B.C.

To his angry Mistris.

As the declining of the Sunne brings a generall darkenesse and discomfort, so the deficiency and absence of your shining and glorious fauours hath ouercouered me with clouds of care. But as the Suns heauenly essence by the course of Nature is daily reuiued, so here I humbly sue that your wonted gracious aspect may returne in your countenance, to solace the dolefull heart of your seruant with vicissitude of long intermitted alacritie, it will redound to your great commendation, when the world shall vnderstand that your heart is of waxe, not impregable & of a flinty and adamantine constitution, hoping that you will be as ready compassionatly to grant as I doe submissiuely implore the renouation of your loue, I rest,

Yours in unutterable
affection.
R.S.

A letter from an apprentice in London, to his Father in the Country.

My humble duty remembred good Father vnto you and my mother. Hauing the opportunity of this bearer, I thought good to certifie you of my present being, giuing you to vnderstand that I am, I thanke God and you, in good health, and very well placed here in London, where I am in hope to continue my here being to some profitable & good purpose: My Maister vseth me in good sort, and I want nothing that appertaines to such a one as my selfe. I trust you shall haue ioy of me, and ere a few yeares passe, I doubt not but so to behaue my self that I shall well deserue

deserue this good liking that already I haue of my Master, and further credit at his hands and imployment about his businesse. I hope you and my mother and all our friends in the country are in good health, I pray you that you will write vnto my master as occasion serueth and thanke him for his good vsage; and if you can to remember him with some good conuenient thing out of the country. Thus desiring your daily blessings, and with a recommendation of my humble duty vnto you both, I take my leaue:

London. Your loving and obedient sonne to command.

R.B.

A letter from a Husband to his Wife.

GOod wife, considering the hasty departure from you, and my children my hope is that you will haue that louing and respective care toward them and your family that appertaineth. I haue left many things raw by reason of the suddennesse of my iourney, which stand vpon your good regard to be ordered, as namely the charge of my seruants, and the disposition of some other affaires and businesses. You shall now shew your selfe a discréet and carefull wife if in my absence you will take vpon you to be in my place. Regard and consider with your selfe, that seruants are negligent and careleſſe, and if the master forget his owne profit, they are as ready as others to share with his gaines. Your painfull attendance to ouer-looke them, shall straine their labours to my vsing, your desire to see to them, shall worke their vsing to my well deseruing. You must now a little forget neighbourhood, and walking for company, considering the old prouerb, that when the Cat

is away, the Mouse will goe play: If Master or Dame haue both continued absence, seruants fall a wasting, and doe what they list. You know good wife, I haue now taken a great charge of late vpon me, which with some carefull looking to may turne to good. Let it not be grieuous vnto you, nor thinke it hard that I thus make you partaker of my charge as I doe of my profit, for we are yoakefellowes you know, and the charge is equall betwixt vs both to be borne and supported. If as louing mates and fellowes we draw forth together, we shall by Gods blessed goodnesse see the fruits of our labours: our children shall participate with vs of our trauells, and God shall prosper our endeauours. And howbeit good wife I haue euer found you such, as of whose care of my well doing I need haue no doubt, yet if by the importance of my charge I be driuen to write thus much vnto you, thinke that in great trust of your modesty, respect of your loue, and zeale to both our goods I haue done the same. And though no distrust remaine of any one about me, yet doe I put you in minde what youth by too much sufferance and giuing of libertie may be inclined to. This is all I would, and so much I hope as you gladly will hold vnto. Commend me many times vnto your selfe, kisse my little ones, and remember me, and commend my loue to all our friends. From Rye the 3 of Febr. 1638.

Your assured loving husband.

F.G.

Her answer.

GOod husband, I am glad you haue at last remembred your selfe by this bearer to write vnto me, that haue thought it very long vntill I heard from you. I doe greatly reioyce at the good & prosperous successe of your iourney.

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and chiefly, that you haue endured your trauell so well being in so good plight and strength of body, as I vnderstand you are by your Letter. We are much beholden vnto our good friends in the country that haue giuen you so great & good entertainment, and I pray you heartily commend me vnto them. Your businesse here goeth very well, and your seruants both dutifull and diligent about their affaires, and we haue no want but your presence, which if you would hasten hitherward, it were a comfort vnto vs all to see you, hauing beene as to me it seemeth, very long absent. But Master Prince, and his friends where you are, vseth you so kindly, that I thinke you cannot well tell how to winde your selfe out from their good company. Yet good husband remember that at last you must come home, and the sooner the better. I referre all to your good discretion: & so commend me most heartily vnto you. From London.

Your ever loving and
loyall wife.
R.G.

A letter from one kinsman to another in London or any other place.

My good Cousin, I am glad to heare of your good preferment in London, and that, as I heare by your father and mother, you are so well placed there, and with so good a Master. It is no little comfort to me to vnderstand that you doe so resolutely and with so good a minde dispose your self to your businesse, which I gladly wish you would continue. You must now remember, that your friends with great care, charge and industry haue brought you vp, and that their intent and meaning therein was, that in expectation thereof they should haue ioy and comfort of you in

your elder yeares: for which as you haue now bequeathed your selfe to this place of seruice, so must you for any feare of hard vsage, bitternes of speech, or other mislike of taunts or rebukes, make account to endure and continue. It may be, being yet vnacquainted with the customes and vsage of London, you doe now thinke well of that which hereafter may turne to discontentment. But good cousin, so be it you haue no want of things needfull and necessary, frame your selfe to forbeare all those crosse matters whatsoeuer, and giue your selfe wholly on Gods name, to the benefit of your seruice, you shall therein want no help, furtherance, or incouragement on my part, and if you performe it well and honestly, you shall not want when time serueth for an hundred pound or two, if in the meane space I may see your good care of your Masters businesse, & please your Mistris, for therein you shall the better please your Master. Your friends are all well. Who reioycing in that already they see you so well behaued, doe dayly pray to God to prosper & blesse you: and thus with my hearty commendations I bid you farewell. Farndon this 18. of May 1638.

Your loving kinsman,

E.G.

A letter to request the borrowing of an hundred Pounds.

SIR, I am bold in my great necessity, vnder assurance of your forwardnesse to doe me good, to intreat your speciall aide & furtherance in two things, the one whereof is to lend me of your wonted fauours one hundred pounds, the other this bearer shall instruct you in, both which consist in your kinde and friendly care of my welldoing, I am of opinion none other then your selfe can fit the occasion better,

better. And truly such is the force of imprisonment, as contrary to that you haue wontedly knowne in me, my vnderstanding is quite decayed, and sore worne with want of liberty, and where the spirits are so distuned, it must nedes follow, the memory must nedes sound nothing but discord. In fine, Sir, it is in you to doe me good, and to make me by this onely action for euer beholden vnto you, wherein if I may so far forth presume of your fidelity, assure your selfe if euer God giue me liberty, to none so much as you shall I be yoked in courtesie. Good master I.B. the matter hereof requireth some haste, whereto I most heartily intreat you faile me not.

Fare yee well this 18. of December. 1638.

Your imprisoned friend,
I.S.

The answer.

GOod Master I.S. needlesse it were you should entreat me in that wherein you haue found me most willing, & such whō with small perswasion you may induce to a far greater purpose then what in your last letter is required, the messenger I haue appointed to returne againe to my chamber to morrow morning, at which time I will not faile to send you your desired summe: for the other, hard will it be for me to accomplish that wherein your self seeme so vnperfect, for that the dullest conceit forged from the most distēpered of your imaginations cannot but sound far better tunes then the ripest of my inuentions any way are able to deliuer. Neuertheless such as it is, or (by dislike of your owne) you haue will to account of, that will I prepare to your view, and put forward to your good spede, thinking it better by the deliuery of a grosse deuice to satisfie the demand of a friend, then by the concealing the simplicitie thereof, to be censured vncourteous. In conclusion,

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it is lawfull for you to vse me to the vttermost, and fittest to your confirmed league of amitie, that in whatsoeuer you should imploy me: wherein I desire you conceiue no more then such as I intend to become, & you shall assuredly finde me,

Your faithfull friend.

I.P.

A letter to his friend for breach of promise.

MAster Jackson, I haue abstained hitherto to come or send vnto you, partly being wearied with importunity, for that I thought, now two moneths being passed, I might in this space haue found a time conuenient wherein to haue ended with you. Hauing taken this cause in hand, I would (as in good reason I thought it fit) you should determine with me vpon some conclusions whereon to rest assured, I might thencefoorth know whereto to trust and neither waste labour in comming to so small purpose, nor hinder my certaine businesse by the vnsteady stay of your affaires, as already I haue done. We haue talked many times, and set downe certaine limits, but to slender effects, as I neither know when to demand, nor you how to satisfie. So that depending vpon shadowes, I haue passed my time to small benefit, and you haue gone forward to little purpose. I doe pray you therefore that such meaning may assure vs, as already betweene vs hath beene performed. To delay me thus with nifles, as I thinke is farre from a Gentleman, so doe I suppose you not intend it considering how many waies thereby I am and shall be hindered. This therefore may be the certaine meanes to satisfie vs both, that you will (as on Fryday last you promised) come & set the agreement betweene vs performed, where-

of I pray you aduertise your full resolution by this bearer: And so I bid you heartily farewell.

Arthingworth,
May 7. 1638.

Your ever assured
loving friend.

W.M.

The answer.

GOod master W.M. my breach of promise in not hauing visited you with deserued requitall sithence my departure may breed suspicion & doubt of vnthankfulnesse, but I hope, and by hope presume, that of your owne good disposition towards all your acquaintance, you will yeld vnto an approued tryall before you condemne. For my part if I should not owe vnto you all honest minde & fidelitie, I should much contrary your great courtesie, & deseruedly incurre the shame of ingratitude. You know that hauing strayed as I haue done out of the limits of a controuled rule, & I displeased so much therby, as my case hath bewrayed vnto you, those whom by nature and duty I ought to be awed vnto, It is reason that by the more strict obseruance, I make amends for the reuolue. The day appointed I will not faile to meet to view the writings, and to make some conclusion to your best satisfaction. Wherin you shall perceiue the honest minde of a Gentleman. My Father it seemeth, though not yet by me, hath otherwise vnderstood how much I stand yoked (in all friendly league of amity) vnto you, and thinketh himself for all his sonnes vnthriftinesse, somewhat therein to be tyed vnto you. His meaning is, one of these daies to intreat your pains hitherward. But howeuer deserts be noted, or care by nature doth binde, assure your self, whilest life leadeth along this earthly course: I am and will be also yours most vnfainedly and most in-

tirely. To whom and to your good bedfellow, I most heartily and often commend me: Thindon June 28. 1638.

Remaining your much bounden friend
in all good affection, I.R.

To his friend a Mercer.

DEare Sir, many salutations, &c. As my occasions fall out I still presume to trouble you, grounding my boldnesse upon the hope of your loue and good will, I request you to send me as much black Sattin as will make mee a Sute. I am your debtor already, beside in good will and loue, a small summe, which for that it hath beene long detained, you may conjecture it to be desperate: yet on my credit it is as sure as any mony in your purse: My intent being honest, but my store not such as at this time I can satisfie: next Terme I expect the plenty of my purse will be so profuse that God permitting, without faile for these and the old debt you shall be fully discharged. Acknowledging my selfe beholden, I rest,

Your thankefull friend, R.G.

A letter to an unfaithfull friend.

SIR, I haue euer beén so loath to think ill of you that I scarce allow mine own witnesse against you, or those strong presumptions that make me thinke you meane to kéep no promises nor no friends: if you will néeds haue it so, let our acquaintance now grow sickly, and die priuately, lest I be blamed for trusting, and you for deceiuing so great a trust. For since our loue is grown into so desperate

a

a Lethargie, I will not wake it, for I had rather it should passe away in a trance, and the remembrance thereof never hereafter to be mentioned. What your friendship was I cannot tell, but I am assured to the view it was fit for greater courtesies then I required: what mine owne was, judge when you have most need of a friend. Neither will I tell you what a sea of mis-fortune your breach of promises hath let in upon me: but Ile bid you now and ever farewell, and with my letter conclude all rites of love betwixt you and me, and rest,

No longer your friend. I. B.

A letter for admittance into service.

HOnorable Sir, I have ever bene so addicted to follow you, that in mine owne opinion I am an old retainer of yours; so I am within a degree of a houshold servant, which is all the promotion that by the intercession of this Letter I strive to come to. But I see so many steps directed that way, that I perhaps may come too late, yet I hope your number is not full, though it be great, and I suppose all are not invited that goe: but some intrude. I will take it for extreame bounty to be admitted within your gates: what I doe is prest by no necessity, but to save my longing, and to satisfie my desires, which afarre off have ever served you. Once I thought to have moved this suit by friends, but that way I was affraid it might miscarry: and I was not very willing it should succeed, being loath to intangle my selfe in obligations to other men, when I was to passe my selfe over unto you, so I thought best to write, for to speake had bene too bold. So in hope at the least of a pardon, I rest as farre as in me lies,

Your humble servant,

B. I.

To his love upon a long and fruitlesse affection.

IT is the property of none but of a faint-hearted souldier for receiving a repulse or two to retire from assault and to give over his enterprize: when every one ought to use constant perseverance, that he may worke the accomplishment of his desires. The long unsuccessfulnesse of my suit hath not made me weary of your service, though since I first fell in love with you (O might the examples incite you no longer to retard your affection) the Sun hath gone about the world, and given a new life to all things which the tempestuous winter had left forlorne: the joyfull Merchant hath made a rich returne, and the laborious husbandman hath crammed his barnes with the plenteous crop of the ever fruitfull earth: Every one hath his hope, onely my selfe more unfortunate then all the rest, in the revolution of time have not had any successe. I am yet peerelesse in misfortune: it rests in you with the sympathy of affection to make me peerelesse in felicity, of which I will never despaire, there being no heart that is more infinitely affected toward you then the heart of

Your truest servant. E. G.

To his sweet-heart in the Country.

Sole Mistris of my affection.

THough in London where I now am many singular beauties are daily obvious to my sight, yet I beseech you not to charge my unfained lines with flattery, if in the just collaudation of your owne unparalleld pulchritude I prefer your unmatchable forme before the rarest of their composures: Their formosities come as far short of yours as

as the splendor of the twinkling Stars come short of the all enlightning radiance of the Sun beames, and they all are as far your inferiors in the ravishing gifts of Nature, as the vilipended pibble is inferior to the worth of the most high prized Carbuncle. To which outward resolvments when I revolve in my mind (and no houre passeth without commemoration of your perfections) how sweetly you have united all internall graces, then am I distracted with grief for my absence, and though my unrestrained mind be inseparably with you, yet I curse the distance of place which deprives me of all comfort, because it disjoynes me from your presence, which till I enjoy, all joy is banished out of my breast, and I have given griefe a free dominion in me, I cannot say I rest, but I remaine,

Your entire vassal. I.S.

A Young mans letter to his enamoured Mistris.

Fairest of a Thousand:

IF you were not absolute, I would not be thus resolute: onely to love you whom I hold only worthy loving; your beauty tells mine eie, and your kindnesse perswades my heart of your goodnesse, for, if you were proud, I should disdaine you, and if you were not faire I would not affect you, now, if you know the one true in your selfe, believe the other in me, and wrong not your selfe in not doing me right: Modesty and niceneſſe are two, and delaies are the hinderances of happinesse: to urge your patience with importunity I will not, and yet to give over my suit I cannot: and therefore knowing your judgement sufficient to understand your owne good, I hope to finde your disposition not inclinde to hurt him, who remaineth,

Yours as you will, and
when you will. I.D.

Her kinde answer.

My worthy friend, how long I haue loued you, was from the first instant that I beheld you: how much I doe loue you, I would I could tell you; how dearly I will loue you, my best endeauours shall truly make known vnto you: & if vnder heauen I may finde such happinesse on the earth as to be regarded in your fauour, I will think it idle that figures earthly felicitie: for your excellence, being almost without exception, let my loue be without comparison, and if truth may haue beliefe, let my affection be without suspicion: and as you haue won my heart with your eies, make it happy with your hands, so hoping that so sweet an aspect can haue no sowrenesse in spirit, in the hope of your kinde answer, I rest,

Yours deuoted to be commanded.
A.B.

A Letter of request.

Kinde friend: I would intreat a kindnesse, but for feare of a denial not out of mine owne deserts, but rather your disposition, which I doubt is too neare the nature of the world, rather to grant then to gratifie: excuses are more trialls of wit then truth, & a faithfull heart hath no stop in loue, and therefore, that I may not haue cause to wrong my selfe in my assured confidence of your worth, doe right to your selfe in the good of that performance, that, without parenthesis may conclude in a full point of kindnesse. The substance of my suit I haue sent you by word of mouth, because my hand-writing shall not witnesse my vnhappinesse if my hope should faile the expectation of my affection, in which without greater care of the contrary, I rest,

Yours as you know, D.S.

A letter of discontent, upon a deniall of a request.

My small friend,

I Thanke you for nothing more then that I haue nothing to thanke you for, wherein you rather considered what I am, then your selfe should be: pardon my folly, in presuming aboue knowledge, and beléeue me no more if I fall into the like error of opinion: you willed me to make account of your vttermost power, in my good: It may bée it was in wishes, which are easily requited, but when they are voyd of effects, they are but troubles to reason: I cannot spell without Letters, nor vnderstand words without substance, therefore loath to be tedious, when I haue vnwillingly béene troublesome, I pray you let complements be without cost, so shall kindnesse continue in that condition of iudgement that shall make me alwaies ready to requite your deniall of my request as I finde cause.

Your friend to command, R.D.

To a Court Lady.

IF loue could dissemble, patience could haue no passion, but truth is so tyed to affection, that as a sound limbe it cannot halt. If you aske the reason of my affection, looke into the excellency of your owne worth, and then if there be any extreame, take it in the best part, which groweth from your selfe: for such is my iudgement of your deserning, as can be answered in nothing but in admiring: for surely, he must be either very dim sighted that doth not preferre your beauty to all shadowes, or dull witted that vnderstands not the honour of your worthinesse. Giue me leaue then, out of the sight of my best sense, and sense of my best

best sight, to denote my service to your command, that may giue a happinesse to your imployment: and while idle Complements are but Court fashions, let plaine truth haue such acceptance in your fauour, that suspicion may not wrong a true affection: in which I vow euer to rest,

Yours all, or mine owne not at all.

I.G.

Her Complementall answer.

WHat words shall I vse to win your affection, holding vnder heauen my happinesse but in your loue? if trauell would please you in your affaires, I would neuer rest but in your fauour: if gifts might be gratiously accepted, I would giue you my self for your loue: If pitty might moue you, I would lay before you my passion: if my death might only answer your desire, I would not liue to despaire of your comfort: but loue being a spirit of that nature that only is pleased in being himselfe, I will leaue all my hopes to that happy houre, wherin he may in your eies, cast those blessed beames of fauour, vpon the faith of my heart, that may make me in the infringible bond of deuoted seruice to the last period of my life,

Yours wholly and onely to be commanded, E.N.

FINIS.

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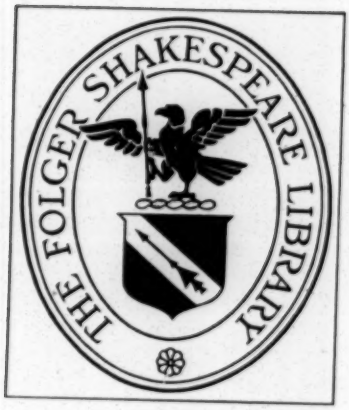

Joan Collis to Jan 19 26